

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the Final Office Action dated December 31, 2007 within two months. Thus, Applicants request an Advisory Action, if necessary. Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 17-22, and 29-33 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejects claims 1-6, 8, 10, 17-22, and 29-33. Applicants assert that the application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the pending claims is requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Interview with Applicants' counsel on February 5, 2008 to discuss the presently claimed invention in light of the newly cited references. **Applicants further thank the Examiner for agreeing that the claims of the present invention are unique over the cited references in that they are specifically directed toward the extrapolation and allocation of agency fees, which are significantly different than travel costs.** As such, Applicants summarize the Examiner Interview by discussing herein the cited references and the differentiating features of the presently claimed invention, as agreed by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' counsel if the Examiner believes further clarification is needed. **The Examiner also agreed to contact Applicants' counsel before issuing another Office Action, if the Examiner believes another Office Action necessary.**

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects claims 1-6, 8, 10, 17, 18, and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vance, U.S. Patent No. 6,442,526 ("Vance") in view of Kelly, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0042715 ("Kelly"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Vance generally discloses a system for processing travel data and travel receipts. More specifically, the Vance system enables a corporate traveler to enter a trip request into a client computer interface, or download information from a Customer Reservations System (CRS) Passenger Name Record (PNR). Such information includes, for example, an employee ID and trip parameters. The Vance system further includes a policy database for defining corporate traveler rules and a traveler profile database for maintaining information such as seat preferences, special meals, frequent flyer information, account numbers, hotel preferences, car rental preferences, and the like. The information entered into the Vance system and stored in the various disclosed databases is used to construct an itinerary. The traveler enters basic trip parameters that are sent to a CRS to verify booking availability and to book the travel.

As noted by the Examiner, Vance discloses that the traveler profile may contain account numbers. As pointed out by Applicants' counsel during the interview, the account numbers of Vance simply represent credit card numbers that are used to pay for travel booking costs. For example, the traveler profile may include the traveler's American Express Corporate Card number for booking corporate travel and a personal Visa card account number for booking travel that is related to personal business. **Thereafter, the traveler can select which account number to use for the costs based on the type of booking. Significantly, Vance does not disclose or contemplate the payment of any agency fees.** Moreover, it is customary for airlines, hotels, rental car agencies, etc. to require a credit account number when creating a reservation. Therefore, the traveler profile of Vance would need to include at least one credit card account number, as Vance does not disclose entering such a number at the time of creating a booking. In other words, the credit card account number must be retrieved from the profile, because Vance does not disclose any other method for providing the account number to airlines, hotels, rental car agencies, and the like.

Kelly generally discloses a system for determining which expenses relating to cell phone service should be paid by an employee, and which expenses should be paid by the employer. Specifically, Kelly discloses "separation rules" that are defined by the employer. When a telephone provider billing statement is received by the employer, the Kelly system applies the separation rules to create two sub-statements. A first statement includes all employer related calls (business calls) and a second statement includes those calls that are not employer related. The first statement is forwarded to the employer's accounting department for payment, and the second statement is sent to the employee. Specifically, Kelly is directed toward dividing calls made on the same account (cell phone account) based only on the separation rules. Kelly is not concerned with receiving a travel transaction and identifying an agency fee (travel agent fee), which may be paid by a different account than the related travel costs. As such, neither Vance, Kelly, nor any combination thereof, disclose or contemplate at least the unique combination of the following steps, as similarly recited by independent claims 1, 3, and 17:

- receiving a Passenger Name Record from a travel reservation system, wherein said Passenger Name Record includes information related to said agency fee and said travel cost related to said travel-related transaction
- obtaining a user profile comprising allocation information, wherein said allocation information defines an allocation of said travel cost to a first billing account and said agency fee to a second billing account
- charging said first billing account, according to said user profile, for said travel cost, wherein said travel cost represents charges associated with said travel-related transaction

- determining said agency fee based upon said Passenger Name Record, wherein said agency fee represents an extra charge related to said travel-related transaction in addition to said travel cost
- charging said agency fee to said second billing account according to said user profile
- providing an enhanced descriptive billing statement, wherein said enhanced descriptive billing statement:
 - recites said travel cost related to said travel-related transaction
 - separately recites said agency fee
 - recites indicia indicating that said agency fee and said travel cost are related to each other

Dependent claims 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 18-20, 22, and 29-33 variously depend from independent claims 1, 3, and 17, therefore dependent claims 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 18-20, 22, and 29-33 are differentiated from the cited reference for at least the same reasons as set forth above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2814 **for which purpose a duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.** **This statement does NOT authorize charge of the issue fee.** Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions regarding this Reply or the present application in general.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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